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Miscellaneous circulars regarding the
distribution of Farmers' bulletins.

UNITED STATES
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United States Department of Agriculture,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 25, 1896.

SIR :

The Act making appropriations for this Department for the current fiscal year contains the following provisions :

And the Secretary of Agriculture may use not to exceed fifty thousand dollars of the amount herein appropriated for the preparation, printing, and publishing of Farmers' Bulletins, which shall be adapted to the interests of the people of different sections of the country, an equal proportion of two-thirds of which shall be supplied to Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress for distribution among their constituents as seeds are distributed: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall notify Senators and Representatives of the character and number of each bulletin and each other publication of the Department of Agriculture (not sent to the folding room of the Senate and House) to which each Senator and Representative may be entitled for distribution on the basis herein provided for the distribution of bulletins.

In accordance with such provision, I have the honor to inform you that I shall be enabled to supply to each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress approximately 4,000 copies of such bulletins during the current fiscal year.

Herewith is a list of Farmers' Bulletins so far issued and available. You are invited to make your selection of so many of the 4,000 copies as you desire from the list submitted, and they will be sent to you in separate envelopes with frank attached for mailing under your direction.

In making up your order it should be borne in mind that other bulletins will be issued during the year to which you will be entitled if your quota is not exhausted at the date of their publication.

Secretary.

HON.

FARMERS' BULLETINS.

No. 3.—The Culture of the Sugar Beet. Pp. 24, figs. 9.

CONTENTS: Climatic conditions—Varieties—Soil—Fertilization—Constituents—Rotation—Preparation of the land—Planting—Cultivation and cost—Harvesting—Siloing—Production of seed—Manufacture of sugar—Development of the cane and beet sugar industry—Consumption in the United States, 1890.

No. 6.—Tobacco: Instructions for its Cultivation and Curing. Pp. 8.

CONTENTS: Seed beds on new land—Seed beds on old land—How to sprout the seed—How to cover with canvas—How to hasten the growth of plants—Preparation of the soil for transplanting—Transplanting tobacco—Cultivation—Pruning and topping—Sun-cured tobacco—Curing with open fires—Curing bright tobacco with flues—Effects of climate.

No. 11.—The Rape Plant: Its History, Culture, and Uses. Pp. 20, figs 4.

CONTENTS: Need of the rape plant in the United States—Description and history—Introduction into Canada—Experience at Guelph, Canada—Different varieties—The rape plant in the United States—Adaptability of large areas—Experience in growing rape in the United States—Adaptability of soils—Place in the rotation—Preparation of the soil—Fertilizers—Seed and sowing—Cultivation—Uses—Rape as a pasture—Rape as a soiling crop—Rape as a catch crop—Rape as a green manure—Rape as a cleaning crop—Precautions to be observed in feeding rape.

No. 14.—Fertilizers for Cotton. Pp. 31.

CONTENTS: Does cotton require potash, phosphoric acid, and nitrogen?—Proportions and amounts of potash, phosphoric acid, and nitrogen required—In what forms supplied—Calcareous manures—The best time for applying nitrate of soda—Yield of lint per acre.

No. 15.—Some Destructive Potato Diseases: What they Are and How to Prevent Them. Pp. 8, figs. 3.

CONTENTS: How the diseases may be distinguished—Fungicides or preventives to be used—When and how to apply the fungicides—Cost of the work.

No. 16.—Leguminous Plants for Green Manuring and for Feeding. Pp. 24.

CONTENTS: Green manuring, history and explanation—How plants get nitrogen from the air—Crops for green manuring—Composition of green leguminous crops—Green manuring compared with feeding the crop—Serradella on medium sandy soils—Green manuring on medium rich soils and sandy loam soils—Alfalfa and crimson clover for feeding—Cowpea for feeding—Advantages of soiling—Value of leguminous crops for feeding.

No. 17.—Peach Yellows and Peach Rosette. Pp. 20, figs. 7.

CONTENTS: Distribution—Distinguishing characters—Preventive measures—Connecticut and Pennsylvania yellows laws.

No. 18.—Forage Plants for the South. Pp. 30.

CONTENTS: Forage crops for different soils—Formation and care of meadows and pastures—Forage plants successfully grown in the South.

No. 19.—Important Insecticides: Directions for Their Preparation and Use. Pp. 23.

CONTENTS: Relation of food habits to remedies—Insecticides for external biting insects (food poisons)—Insecticides for external sucking insects (contact poisons)—Dusting and spraying apparatus—Remedies for subterranean insects—Remedies for insects affecting grain and other stored products—Control of insects by cultural methods—Profit in remedial measures.

No. 20.—Washed Soils: How to Prevent and Reclaim Them. Pp. 22, figs. 6.

CONTENTS: Chemical relations of the soil to surface washing—Methods to prevent washing—Recovering gullied hillsides by reforestation—Recovery of washed soils—Preparation for planting forests—Grasses and similar vegetation to prevent washing of land.

No. 21.—Barnyard Manure. Pp. 32, figs. 7.

CONTENTS: Manure as a farm resource—Amount, value, and composition of manures produced by different animals—Comparative value of solid and liquid parts—Influence of age and kind of animal—Influence of quality and quantity of food—Influence of the nature and proportion of litter—Management and use of manure—Lasting or cumulative effect of barnyard manure.

No. 22.—The Feeding of Farm Animals. Pp. 32.

CONTENTS: Principles of feeding—Composition of the animal body—Composition of feeding stuffs—Digestibility of feeding stuffs—Feeding standards for different kinds of animals—Value of feeding standards—Calculation of rations—Selection of feeding stuffs—Preparation of food for animals—Feeding for fat and for lean—Wheat as a food for animals—Tables showing composition of feeding stuffs.

No. 23. Foods: Nutritive Value and Cost. Pp. 32, charts 2.

CONTENTS: Nutrient in food and how it is used in the body—Chemical composition of food materials—The fuel value of food—Definition of food and food economy—Nutritive values of different food materials—Composition of food materials—Digestibility of food—Fitting of food to the needs of the body—Dietaries and dietary standards—Calculation of daily dietaries—Pecuniary economy of food—Waste of food—Food and health—Tables of composition of food materials and of daily dietaries.

No. 24.—Hog Cholera and Swine Plague. Pp. 16.

CONTENTS: General characters—Symptoms—Appearance on post-mortem examination—The cause of these diseases—Diagnosis and prognosis—Formula for remedy of hog cholera and swine plague—Sanitary measures to prevent the introduction of hog cholera and swine plague—Prevention of disease by proper breeding and feeding.

No. 25.—Peanuts: Culture and Uses. Pp. 24, fig. 1.

CONTENTS: Description and history—Composition—Varieties—Climate and soil suitable for peanut culture—Manuring and culture—Harvesting—Uses.

No. 26.—Sweet Potatoes: Culture and Uses. Pp. 30, figs. 4.

CONTENTS: Propagation—Character and preparation of soil—Transplanting—Cultivation—Manuring—Harvesting and storing—Varieties—Fungous diseases and insect enemies—Uses—Cost of production.

No. 27.—Flax for Seed and Fiber in the United States. Pp. 16.

CONTENTS: Can both seed and fiber be saved?—Soil selection and preparation—Fertilizing—Rotation—Sowing the seed—Kind and quantity of seed to sow—Meteorological considerations—Weeds—Harvesting the fiber—Saving the seed—Retting the straw—Practical considerations—The "American" practice.

No. 28.—Weeds; and How to Kill Them. Pp. 31, figs. 11.

CONTENTS: General methods of eradicating weeds—List of weeds attracting especial attention during 1894—Table of one hundred weeds.

No. 29.—Souring of Milk and Other Changes in Milk Products. Pp. 23.

CONTENTS: Composition of milk—Causes of fermentation—Sources of bacteria in milk—Number of bacteria in milk—Kinds of dairy bacteria—The souring of milk—Supposed effect of thunderstorms on the souring of milk—Other forms of fermentation of milk—Fermentation of milk by rennet—Practical bearing of the subject upon dairying.

No. 30.—Grape Diseases on the Pacific Coast. Pp. 15, figs. 3.

CONTENTS: Introduction—California vine disease—Powdery mildew—Culture.

No. 31.—Alfalfa, or Lucern. Pp. 23, figs. 3.

CONTENTS: Name—History—Description—Varieties—Habits of growth—Soils and conditions of growth—Preparation of the soil—Sowing the seed—Alfalfa hay—Weeds—Cutting for seed—Feeding value—Soiling vs. pasturing—Alfalfa for hogs—Alfalfa in the orchard—Chemical composition—Alfalfa as a soil renovator—Destroying alfalfa—Enemies of alfalfa.

No. 32.—Silos and Silage. Pp. 31, figs. 10.

CONTENTS: Historical—Construction and cost of silos—Selection and culture of silage crops—Filling the silo—Cost of silage—Composition and feeding value of silage—Feeding silage to farm stock.

No. 33.—Peach Growing for Market. Pp. 24, figs. 20.

CONTENTS: Where peaches can be grown—Climate best suited to the peach—Soils adapted to peach culture—Planting within easy reach of large markets—The selection of a site—Extent of peach lands in the United States—Planting the orchard—Selection of suitable trees—Varieties to be planted—Cultivation of the orchard—Pruning—Fertilizers—Fungous diseases and insect pests—Spraying, washes, etc.—Picking and marketing the fruit—Gluts in the market—Hindrances to profitable peach culture.

No. 34.—Meats: Composition and Cooking. Pp. 29, figs. 4.

CONTENTS: Animal and vegetable foods compared—Structure of meats—Composition of meats—Texture (toughness) of meats—Flavor of meats—Digestibility of meats—The cooking of meats—Cuts of meat—Composition and fuel value of meats.

No. 35.—Potato Culture. Pp. 28, figs. 3. [In press.]

CONTENTS: Soil and rotation—Manuring—Varieties—Planting—Time to cut seed potatoes—Change of seed—Seed end vs. stem end—Effect of sprouting—Quantity of seed potatoes per acre—Size of seed pieces—General considerations on the amount of seed potatoes—Size of seed tubers—Can small potatoes be profitably used for planting?—Weight and number of eyes per set—Number of cuttings and stalks per hill—Distance between plants—Cultivation—Mulching—Harvesting and storing—Second-crop potatoes—Summary.

No. 36.—Cotton Seed and Its Products. [In press.]

CONTENTS: Cotton seed—Method of manufacturing cotton-seed products—Cotton seed oil, meal and hulls—Cotton-seed hull ash—Feeding cotton-seed products to farm stock—Effect on health of animals—Summary.

United States Department of Agriculture,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, D. C.

JUNE 28, 1897.

HONORABLE _____,

SIR:

In explanation of the restriction to 4,000 copies of the quota of Farmers' Bulletins of each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress under the appropriation for this Department for the year ending June 30, 1898, I have the honor to present the following facts for your attention:

For the year 1895 the number of Farmers' Bulletins printed was 1,465,000; for the year ending June 30, 1896, the total number printed was 1,891,000, of which 1,316,650 copies were distributed to Congressmen. For the year ending June 30, 1897, 2,387,000 copies have already been printed. The proportion distributed to Congressmen has not yet been made up, but it is believed it will amount to about four-fifths of the whole number. The character of the Farmers' Bulletins distributed during the current year has somewhat increased their cost. Until this year the cost of these bulletins had been slightly under one and a half cents per copy; this year the cost per copy has slightly exceeded one and three-fifths cents each. This is due partly to an increase in the size of bulletins, partly to the increase of illustrations, necessitating a better quality of paper and better press work, and finally to the fact that the most costly have proved to be the most popular, and have, therefore, had to be printed in very large editions.

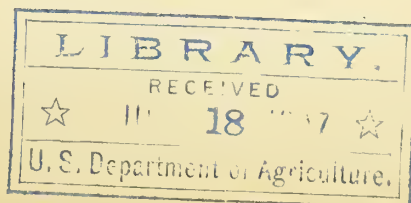
Under the appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year it will be impossible to provide for more than 2,000,000 copies of this class of publications, which would, under the terms of our appropriation, allow for Senators, Representatives, and Delegates, 1,367,000 copies, being very little more than was distributed to them last year, and very much fewer than it has been possible to provide for them during the current year. Under the circumstances I have concluded to again draw heavily upon the quota reserved for the Secretary of Agriculture in order to provide as liberally as possible for Members of Congress, but under the appropriations available it will be impossible to assign more than 4,000 copies to each Senator, Representative, and Delegate, nor, indeed, even were the amount available for printing larger, would it be possible to increase this number, for the reason that with the force available under the limitations of next year's appropriation, means to handle a larger number can not be provided.

New accounts will be opened with Senators, Representatives, and Delegates for the distribution of Farmers' Bulletins on the 1st of July proximo, each Member being credited, as explained above, with 4,000 copies as his quota of Farmers' Bulletins, to be delivered under his order or under franks prepared by him as provided in the appropriations act for this Department for the twelve months ending June 30, 1898, approved April 23, 1897.

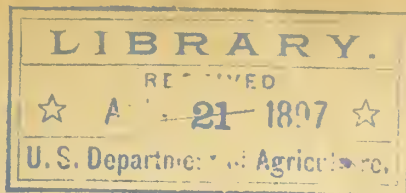
I regret that it is not in my power to treat Congressional orders during the coming year with the liberality which has characterized the present one.

Very respectfully,

James Wilson
Secretary.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 15, 1897.*

SIR : The act making appropriations for this Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, under the special appropriation for publications contains the following provisions :

Farmers' Bulletins, which shall be adapted to the interests of the people of different sections of the country, an equal proportion of two-thirds of which shall be supplied to Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress for distribution among their constituents, \$50,000 : *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall notify Senators and Representatives of the character and number of each bulletin and each other publication of the Department of Agriculture (not sent to the folding rooms of the Senate and House) to which each Senator and Representative may be entitled for distribution on the basis herein provided.

In compliance therewith an allotment of approximately 5,000 copies of such bulletins was made for each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress for the current fiscal year. The appended list comprises the Farmers' Bulletins so far issued and available for distribution. If you have not already obtained your quota of these bulletins you are invited to make your selection of so many of the 5,000 copies as desired, and they will be sent to you in separate envelopes with frank attached ready for mailing under your direction; or if preferred addressed franks may be furnished by you, and the bulletins will be mailed from this office.

Very respectfully,

James Wilson
Secretary.

HON. -----

FARMERS' BULLETINS.

- No. 15.—Some Destructive Potato Diseases: What They Are and How to Prevent Them. Pp. 8, figs. 3.
 CONTENTS: How the diseases may be distinguished—Fungicides or preventives to be used—When and how to apply the fungicides—Cost of the work.
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 CONTENTS: Green manuring—How plants get nitrogen from the air—Some crops for green manuring—Composition of green leguminous crops—Green manuring compared with feeding the crop—Alfalfa and crimson clover for feeding—Cowpea for feeding—Advantages of soiling—Value of leguminous crops for feeding.
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- No. 26.—Sweet Potatoes: Culture and Uses. Pp. 30, figs. 4.
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No. 36.—Cotton Seed and Its Products. Pp. 16.

CONTENTS: Cotton seed—Method of manufacturing cotton-seed products—Cotton-seed oil, meal, and hulls—Cotton-seed hull ash—Feeding cotton-seed products to farm stock—Effect on health of animals—Summary.

No. 37.—Kafir Corn: Characteristics, Culture, and Uses. Pp. 12, fig. 1.

CONTENTS: Characteristics, culture, and uses—Varieties—Soils and climate—Preparation of the soil—Methods of seeding—Cultivation and harvesting—Yield—Composition—Practical feeding tests.

No. 38.—Spraying for Fruit Diseases. Pp. 12, figs. 6.

CONTENTS: Fungicides, or remedies for plant diseases—Applying fungicides—Treatment of grape, apple, pear, quince, cherry, and plum diseases.

No. 39.—Onion Culture. Pp. 31, figs. 3.

CONTENTS: Selection and preparation of soil—Fertilizing—Seed and varieties—Growing onions from sets and from seed sown in the field—Transplanting—Cultivating and weeding—Irrigation—Harvesting—Storing—Production of seed—Two important enemies of the onion.

No. 40.—Farm Drainage. Pp. 24, figs. 7.

CONTENTS: Structure of soils, and its relation to their drainage—Natural and artificial drainage—Surface drainage and under drainage—Tile drainage—Open drains—Construction of open ditches.

No. 41.—Fowls: Care and Feeding. Pp. 24, figs. 4.

CONTENTS: Site for building and yards—Construction of houses—Perches, nests, drinking fountains, dust boxes, etc.—Breeds and breeding—Feeding—Brooders and incubators—Diseases and lice—Dressing and shipping.

No. 42.—Facts About Milk. Pp. 29, figs. 8.

CONTENTS: The dairy industry—Composition and causes of variation in milk—Difficulties in obtaining pure milk—Changes of milk—Care of milk—Detecting impure milk—Town and city milk supply.

No. 43.—Sewage Disposal on the Farm and the Protection of Drinking Water. Pp. 20, figs. 8.

CONTENTS: Methods of disposal of different kinds of sewage—Protection of drinking water—Ways of contamination of water—Construction of wells.

No. 44.—Commercial Fertilizers: Composition and Use. Pp. 24.

CONTENTS: The need of commercial fertilizers—Fertilizer requirements of different soils and crops—Forms, sources, and composition of fertilizing materials—Agricultural vs. commercial value of fertilizers—Purchase of fertilizers and conditions when they may be properly used—Kind to use—How to apply.

No. 45.—Some Insects Injurious to Stored Grain. Pp. 32, figs. 17.

CONTENTS: Grain weevils—Grain moths—Flour and meal moths—Flour beetles—Meal worms—Grain beetles—The cadelle—Parasites and natural enemies—Methods of control: Preventive measures; insecticides and other destructive agencies; the bisulphide of carbon treatment; summary of principal remedies.

No. 46.—Irrigation in Humid Climates. Pp. 27, figs. 4.

CONTENTS: The advantages of an abundant supply of soil moisture—The rainfall of the growing season in the United States is insufficient for maximum yield—Water only one of the necessary plant foods—Advantages and disadvantages of irrigation in humid climates—Extent of irrigation in the humid parts of Europe—The rainfall of Europe and the Eastern United States compared—The character and antiquity of European irrigation—Fertilizing value of irrigation waters—Lines along which irrigation should first develop—Lands best suited to irrigation in humid climates—Waters best suited to irrigation—Amount of water needed for irrigation—Methods of obtaining water for irrigation—The construction of reservoirs—Methods of applying irrigation water.

No. 47.—Insects Affecting the Cotton Plant. Pp. 32, figs. 18.

CONTENTS: The cotton worm, or cotton caterpillar—The cotton bollworm—The Mexican cotton-boll weevil—Other cotton insects.

No. 48.—The Manuring of Cotton. Pp. 16.

CONTENTS: The draft of the cotton plant upon the fertility of the soil—Experiments on the manuring of cotton.

No. 49.—Sheep Feeding. Pp. 24.

CONTENTS: Feeding breeding ewes—Feeding lambs intended for breeding purposes—Feeding rams—Feeding lambs for market.

No. 50.—Sorghum as a Forage Crop. Pp. 20.

CONTENTS: General characteristics and origin—Extent of cultivation in the United States—Varieties—Conditions of growth—Methods of culture—Yield—Value for forage—Chemical composition and digestibility—Objections sometimes urged against sorghum as a forage crop—Summary.

No. 51.—Standard Varieties of Chickens. Pp. 48, figs. 44.

Enumerates, describes, and illustrates forty-four varieties of barn-yard fowls, popularly called chickens, and recites their respective points of superiority and general utility.

No. 52.—The Sugar Beet. Pp. 45, figs. 24.

CONTENTS: Introduction—Climatic conditions affecting the growth of the sugar beet—The theoretical beet-sugar belt of the United States—Conditions of precipitation—Growth of beets on irrigated lands—Varieties of beets—Soil—Fertilization—Precautions to be observed in applying stable manure—Quantities of plant food removed from the soil—Effect of nitrogenous manures on the quality of the beet—Rotation—Preparation of the land for planting—Planting—Time of planting—Cultivation—Position of the beet in the soil—Cost of growing beets—Harvesting—Siloing—Production of seed—Domestic production of beet seed—Production of commercial beets from a single high-grade beet—Comparative value of domestic and foreign-grown seed—Manufacture of sugar—Home manufacture of sugar—Waste product—Cost of manufacture—Cost of factory—Cooperative factories—Statistical.

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